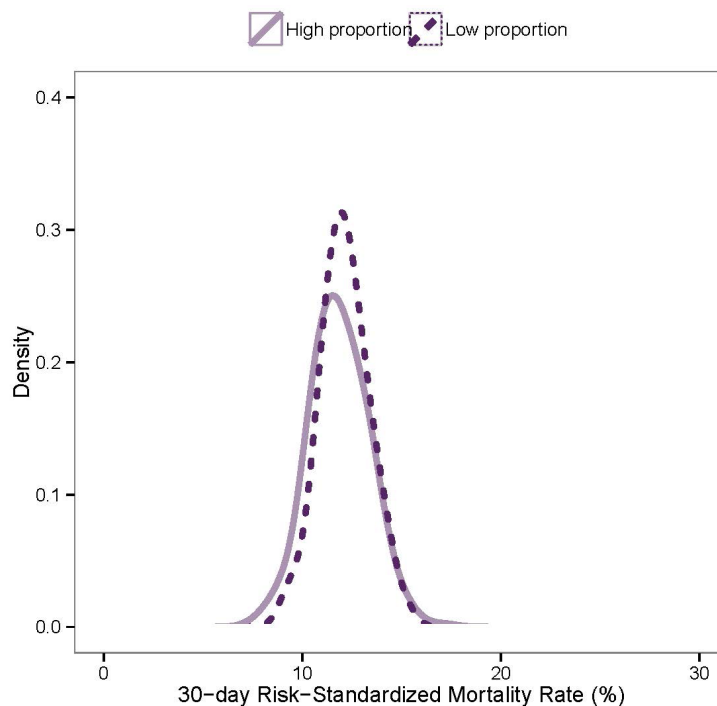


## SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC STATUS

► **Performance on the heart failure mortality measure:** Hospitals that serve high and low proportions of Medicaid patients.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically investigates select hospital practices that may impact a hospital's performance on the following mortality measure: hospital-level 30-day risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following heart failure [1]. The heart failure mortality measure includes Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older and assesses the occurrence of death from any cause within 30 days after the date of hospital admission for heart failure [2]. The heart failure mortality measure has been publicly reported on [Hospital Compare](#) since 2007 and has been included in the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) Program since 2013 [3, 4].

**FIGURE I.** Distributions of heart failure RSMRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid admissions, July 2012-June 2015.



Variation in RSMRs reflects differences in performance among hospitals; lower RSMRs suggest better quality and higher RSMRs suggest worse quality. To understand how caring for Medicaid patients might impact a hospital's RSMR, we examined RSMRs among hospitals with high and low proportions of Medicaid patients. We compared the heart failure RSMRs for the 372 hospitals with the lowest overall proportion of Medicaid admissions ( $\leq 6.7\%$  of a hospital's admissions) to the 371 hospitals with the highest overall proportion of Medicaid admissions ( $\geq 29.1\%$  of a hospital's admissions) for the July 2012 – June 2015 reporting period. We defined hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid admissions as those that fall within the lowest and highest deciles of all hospitals with 25 or more qualifying admissions, respectively. The proportion of Medicaid admissions for each hospital was determined using the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey Database Fiscal Year 2014 [5]. To ensure accurate assessment of each hospital, the heart failure mortality measure uses a statistical model to adjust for key differences in patient risk factors that are clinically relevant and that have a strong relationship with the mortality outcome [2].

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**TABLE I.** Distributions of heart failure RSMRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid admissions, July 2012-June 2015.

	Heart failure RSMR (%)	
	Lowest proportion ( $\leq 6.7\%$ ) Medicaid admissions; n=372	Highest proportion ( $\geq 29.1\%$ ) Medicaid admissions; n=371
Maximum	15.3	17.3
90%	13.8	13.7
75%	12.9	12.9
Median (50%)	12.1	11.8
25%	11.3	10.9
10%	10.7	10.1
Minimum	9.0	7.4

The median heart failure RSMR for hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid admissions was 12.1% (interquartile range [IQR]: 11.3%- 12.9%; Figure 1 and Table 1). The median heart failure RSMR for hospitals with the highest proportion of Medicaid admissions was 11.8% (IQR: 10.9%- 12.9%; Figure 1 and Table 1).

Hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid admissions had a median heart failure RSMR that was 0.3 percentage points higher than that of hospitals with the highest proportion.

1. 2015 Medicare Hospital Quality Chartbook. Prepared by Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality-initiatives-patient-assessment-instruments/hospitalqualityinits/outcomemeasures.html>. Accessed March 1, 2016.

2. Dorsey, K., Grady, J. N., Desai, N., et al. 2016 Condition-Specific Measures Updates and Specifications Report Hospital-Level 30-Day Risk-Standardized Mortality Measures: Acute Myocardial Infarction – Version 10.0, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease – Version 5.0, Heart Failure – Version 10.0, Pneumonia – Version 10.0, Stroke – Version 5.0. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=OnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1163010421830>. Accessed May 9, 2016.

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4. Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) Overview. QualityNet website. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=OnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772039937>. Accessed March 1, 2016.

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